

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA ABERNATHY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Abernathy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Abernathy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BARBARA S. AUSTIN ELEMENTARY UPON ITS 20TH-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara S. Austin Elementary, "Home of the Austin Mustangs" for its 20th anniversary of providing a superb education for the students of Coppell, Texas.

Barbara S. Austin Elementary School is proud to celebrate 20 years of excellence in education. Nestled in the center of Coppell, Texas, Austin Elementary is a neighborhood school that has provided thousands of students with an outstanding learning experience over the years.

Named after Barbara S. Austin, an actively involved community leader who served on the Coppell Independent School District Board of Trustees, Austin Elementary opened its doors in the fall of 1987 with over 500 students. Once a small community with one school housing kindergarten through twelfth grade, by August of 1987 Coppell had grown to include three elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Austin Elementary was the first elementary school built with the new architectural plan that led the way for the additional seven elementary schools added over the next 10 years.

Mustang pride and the school motto, "Just for today, I will do my best!", are part of Austin's heritage. It has a student body comprised of a diverse mix of energetic students, parents who are supportive and involved in their children's education, and a dedicated and committed staff who do everything in their power to ensure success for all students.

In honor of this special anniversary, Austin Elementary is creating a "Thanks for the Memories" personalized brick patio to commemorate the many teachers and families that have been a part of Austin Elementary over the past 20 years. On April 29, 2007 at 2:30

p.m., a dedication ceremony will take place and all current and former staff, students and parents are invited to share in this celebration.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the 20th anniversary of Barbara S. Austin Elementary School.

THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, this Wednesday, April 19, 2007 marks the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing that claimed 168 lives and left over 800 injured. 19 of the victims were children. On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, I want to acknowledge those who lost their lives as well as the family and friends left behind. I further acknowledge the selfless sacrifice and courage Oklahoma City family members made in their embrace of 9/11 family members following the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. The exchange that has taken place since that time is great evidence of how Americans come together in time of need.

Let us never forget those who lost their lives on this day of infamy as well as the living who have been so profoundly affected by this national tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO ARMAND "SKIP" BECOTTE, JR.

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, last Friday, while we were in recess, the Massachusetts Lions Club held a very well-deserved testimonial for Armand "Skip" Becotte, Jr., who lives in the town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, in the district I am privileged to represent.

Madam Speaker, as many Members know, the Lions Club has made as its highest priority helping people deal with health problems, particularly in the area of eyesight. They have also worked on hearing related issues. Personally, Skip Becotte has taken as his motto the words of the great Helen Keller, in her address to the Lions Club, "Help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child unttaught; no blind man or woman unaided. I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"

Currently Skip Becotte is the District Governor for the Massachusetts Lions District 33S, which includes much of Southeastern Massachusetts, including all of Cape Cod and much of the district that I represent. During his governorship the Lions in District 33S have given nearly \$200,000 to the Perkins School for the Blind, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Joslin Diabetes Center, New England Eye Center, Schepens Eye Research Institute and many other institutions.

Madam Speaker, Skip Becotte—winner of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for outstanding service in 2001—is an extraordinary man. A retired police officer and father of five, his life exemplifies service to others. I congratulate the Lions Club for honoring this man and I am glad to share with my colleagues the story of his work because it is an inspiration to all.

HONORING THE FORT KNOX VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to the men and women who work in the Fort Knox Veteran Service Office. These dedicated individuals from my congressional district are deserving of our respect and admiration.

Recent global events have rightfully renewed our focus on those brave men and women, past and present, who have answered our Nation's call to service. In times of war and in times of peace we must always show our gratitude for those who have worn the uniform of the United States military.

Through their work at the Fort Knox Veteran Service Office, Paul Schisser, Clint Meshew, Jaydean Maschak, and Mildred Meshew have made it their mission to assist fellow veterans and their survivors in obtaining benefits they have earned. Collectively, the group helped over 900 individuals in Kentucky's Second Congressional District in 2006.

As the home of Fort Knox, my district has a high population of veterans. Our government has a special responsibility to support programs and initiatives that ensure premium health care and economic stability for those Americans who stood selflessly in harm's way to preserve our most fundamental freedoms. The Fort Knox Veteran Service Office continues to do exemplary work supporting this important endeavor.

It is my great privilege to honor Paul Schisser, Clint Meshew, Jaydean Maschak, and Mildred Meshew today before the entire House of Representatives for their continued service to our country helping fellow veterans and their survivors who need their support. They are a group of outstanding citizens worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP ARETHA E. MORTON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Aretha E. Morton for being appointed as State Bishop for my home state of Delaware in 2006.

This great honor has been bestowed upon her due to her long-standing dedication to the Baptist church. I congratulate Bishop Aretha E. Morton on an outstanding career in ministry. She began her career by singing and recording in several different Gospel groups. By